DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 404 425 UD 031 547

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TITLE Education and Society in Hong Kong. Toward One Country and Two Systems. Hong Kong Becoming China: The Transition to 1997 Series.
REPORT NO ISBN-962-209-300-0
PUB DATE 92
NOTE 314p.
AVAILABLE FROM Hong Kong University Press, 139 Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong.
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Collected Works - General (020) -- Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Citizenship Education; *Colonialism; Cultural Background; *Educational Change; Elementary Secondary Education; *Equal Education; Foreign Countries; Politics; *Role of Education; *Social Change; Social Stratification
IDENTIFIERS *China; Chinese People; *Hong Kong

ABSTRACT

This book takes the position that education in Hong Kong under British rule has been characterized by inequalities, privileges, patronage, discrimination, archaic hierarchies, inadequate planning, and emphasis on quantity over quality. With this colonial heritage and burden, Hong Kong prepares to join China in 1997. Although education in Hong Kong carries many burdens from the past, it also has transformative power for the future through the training of leaders, the promotion of Hong Kong Chinese cultural identity, and the socialization of a new citizenry for Hong Kong as part of the People's Republic of China. The 13 essays in this collection explore education in Hong Kong as a legacy of the past and force for the future. The first part of the collection provides an overview of Hong Kong education in its social context. Part 2, "Education and Politics," considers the political dimensions of change and education. Part 3 explores education and social stratification in Hong Kong, and Part 4 discusses two major educational issues for the former colony: the language of education and the emigration of talented individuals. In Part 5, various aspects of education in Hong Kong and in the People's Republic are compared and contrasted. Appendixes present schematics explaining the educational system of Hong Kong and its policymaking and administrative bodies, a chronological framework of the educational systems and of important documents regarding Hong Kong's education, and a comparison of the educational systems of the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong. (Contains 20 tables and 392 references.) (SLD)

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